(c) The steps taken by the Government to protect river dolphins include:—

(i) This species has been included in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and its hunting has been banned by law.

(ii) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal capture of dolphin reaches them.

(iii) The concerned range States of India have ben advised to follow the following norms:

(a) The fisheries department should regulate the mesh size of fishing nets to avoid accidental deaths of River Dolphin.

(b) The mosquite net should completely be prohibited for fishing in any part of the river.

(c) The fishermen should be instructed to avoid use of Dolphin oil to attract the fish for netting.

(d) Awareness compaign should be stepped up.

(e) Regular financial assistance is being provided to different institutions and universities for the study of its status, biology and other conservation aspects.

(f) National River Conservation Plan has also been launched for the habitat improvement.

Effluents Discharged by Sugar Mill in Cuddalore

3384. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a sugar mill in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu is discharging its, effluents into stream which joins Vellar river used by human beings and cattles for drinking and irrigation purposes;

(b) whether Government have directed the sugar mill to stop the discharge of effluents into the river through a narrow stream; and

(c) what action Government will take to make the sugar mill abide by the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) According to the State Government, no sugar unit in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu is discharging effluent into any stream which joins Vellar river.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sugar Mills are being monitored by the Government through the Central Pollution Control Board/State Pollution Control Board and necessary action is taken against the defaulting units.

Pollution Caused by MRK Sugar Mills in Cuddalore

3385. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any survey to assests the damage being done to the atomosphere through ash and other pollutants of the MRK Sugar Mills in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu in the nearby villages;

(b) whether the sugar mill authorities or the State Pollution Control Board ever made any survey to assess as to how many people of the neighbouring villages are affected by the fly ash etc. of the mill every year; and

(c) whether Government have directed the MRK Sugar Mill to install pollution control devices as per norms to save the environment and the people of nearby villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has carried out an ambient air quality survey on 5.2.98 in the vicinity of MRK Sugar Mills in Cuddalore district to assess ambient air quality in the area. The survey conducted revealed that the air pullution levels encountered in the area were within the prescribed limits.

(b) No environmental epidemiological survey/study was conducted by the Board or the Sugar Mill. However, as ambient air quality was found within the prescribed limits, no significant adverse impact on health of the people living in neighbouring villages is envisaged.

(c) Yes Sir. The Government had directed the unit through the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to ensure that the pollution control devices are installed as per the prescribed norms to avoid any adverse impacts.

वन भूमि पर फलों के पौधे लगाये जाने का प्रस्ताव

3386. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार वन भूमि पर फलों के पौधे लगाने का विचार रखती है जो कि न केवल फलों के उत्पादन में सहायक है बल्कि पारिस्थितकी सहायक भी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि आवश्यक हुआ, तो क्या ऐसी वन भूमि को पट्टे पर दिया जाएगा?

पर्यावरण और मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी): (क) और (ख) वन भूमि पर फलदार वृक्षों का रोपण किया जा सकता है यदि जो प्रजातियां लगाई जानी हैं वह देशज हैं और इस प्रकार की वृक्षारोपण गतिविधि क्विाराधीन वन क्षेत्र के लिए एक समग्र वनीकरण कार्यक्रम का हिस्सा है। तथापि, कार्यान्वयन एजेंसियों के द्वारा जलवायु और मृदा परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखकर पौध-प्रजातियों का चयन किया जाता है।

(ग) जिस वन भूमि पर स्वामित्व, प्रबंध अथवा नियंत्रण सरकार के पास नहीं है उसको किसी संगठन को पट्टे पर देने के लिए वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के अंतर्गत केन्द्र सरकार की पूर्व-स्वीकृति आवश्यक है।

Ban on the manufacture of products using ozone depleting substances (ODS)

3387. DR. ALLAADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have banned setting up of fresh capacity of manufacture aerosols produes using ozone depleting substances (ODS);

(b) if so, the details of alternatives developed or authorized to be used as substitutes; and

(c) the manner of assisting the industry to help phase out the process of ODS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) India is a party to the Montreal Protocol and required to phase out ozone depleting substance (ODS) in phases, by the year 2010. A draft notification has been published in the Gazette of India, that prohibits setting up of fresh capacities for manufacture of aerosol produets, except metered dose inhalers used for medicinal purpose, containing ODS.

(b) Hydrocarbon Aerosol Propellant (HAP) has been developed as an alternative to be used as substitute.

(c) Financial and technical assistance are available from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol to the existing industrial units to help phase out ODS.

World Bank Study on Deaths Due to Pollution in Delhi

3388. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: